

The financial assistance is limited to Rs. 20,000/- in each case.

[English]

Visit of US Delegation

152. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether US delegation visited India in the month of October, 1997 and had discussion with various leaders of India;

(b) if so, to what extent the talks were successful;

(c) whether US offered selective Membership to India in U.N.;

(d) whether Pakistan firing at Jammu and Kashmir border and Pakistan's involvement in creating and helping terrorist in the State were also discussed; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):
(a) Yes, Sir. The US delegation led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Thomas Pickering visited India in October, 1997. The delegation held discussions at Official level and called on PM and Finance Minister.

(b) The talks were very successful in the context of a broadbased integrated and forward looking dialogue with the US touching upon bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues.

(c) Expansion of the UN Security Council was also discussed. The US side clarified its position of supporting Germany and Japan and three other nations from the developing countries as permanent members. We made clear our position, stressing the need for a non-discriminatory approach and the need for evolving criteria for permanent membership of UN Security Council.

(d) and (e) The attention of the US leadership was drawn to Pakistan's continuing support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India and unprovoked firing by Pakistan across the Line of Control and the International Boundary in Jammu & Kashmir. The US side has conveyed that they took a serious view of terrorist activities. The US government recently declared the Pakistan based organisation Harkat-ul-Ansar as a terrorist organisation under

US law. The talks helped to create a better mutual understanding of ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation as also of each other's perceptions on important regional and international issues.

Wage Structure in Sugar Industry

153. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the wage structure for the people employed in the sugar industry;

(b) if so, the approximate number of people employed in the sugar industry in the country, State-wise;

(c) the rate at which the wages are fixed per worker per day/per month; and

(d) the details of the proposed revision of wage structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Government has constituted a Tripartite Industrial Committee on Sugar Industry on 3.10.97 consisting of representatives from Central Government, State Governments employees' and employees' Organisations. The Committee, inter-alia, will look into the wage structure of employees working in Sugar Industry.

(b) The State-wise details of employment in Sugar Industry are not available. However, as per available information, the total number of employees as in the year 1994-95 were 3.805 lakhs.

(c) The workers in the Sugar Industry are generally governed by the provisions of the recommendations of the Wage Board. The details regarding rate of wages per worker per day/per month are not maintained.

(d) The Committee has not so far given any recommendations on the wage structure in Sugar Industry.

Regional Research Institute for Ayurveda

154. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Regional Research Institute for Ayurveda situated at Trivandrum, Kerala and to shift the same to other place;

(b) if so, the circumstances led the Government to take such decision and the place where it is proposed to be shifted;

(c) whether the government of Kerala has submitted any request to the Union Government to review its decision and restore the institute at Trivandrum;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government Body of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) had set up a sub-committee under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary, Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, to review the functioning of the CCRAS and to recommend restructuring and reorganisation because the present number of field stations, i.e. 86 has become rather unwieldy to manage from the point of view of their locations, supervision, control, etc. Many units are non-functional due to inadequate infrastructural support. Many are not cost effective. Based on the recommendations of the Committee as accepted by the Governing Body and by the Government the above mentioned decision was taken.

It is proposed to shift the Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), Trivendrum except its drug Standardisation Division to the Central Research Institute, Cheruthuruthy. It is proposed to amalgamate the Drug Standardisation Division of R.R.I., Trivendrum with the Central Research Institute (Siddha), Chennai.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, a request from the Honourable Chief Minister of Kerala was received for retaining the Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), Trivendrum at its existing place.

(e) The implementation of the proposed reorganisation and restructuring of the Council has been stayed by the High Court at Chennai.

Additional Budgetary Support for Power Sector

155. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Ministry has sought an additional budgetary support of Rs. 12.154 crore for the Ninth Five Year Plan over and above the allocation already contemplated by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith funds already allocated by the Planning Commission for Power sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Government have agreed to provide additional funds as required by the Power Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) The Ninth Plan is under finalisation by the Planning Commission. The Ministry of Power has proposed a Domestic Budgetary Support (DBS) of around Rs. 13.800 crores for the Ninth Plan for the following reasons:—

- (i) To accelerate the generation programme in Central/State Sector.
- (ii) To complete on-going thermal and hydro projects in the Central Sector.
- (iii) To undertake renovation and modernisation of existing power stations.
- (iv) To construct important inter-State and inter-regional links.
- (v) To undertake advance action on thermal and hydel power projects for commissioning in the Tenth Plan and beyond.

At a review meeting taken by the Prime Minister it has been decided that very high priority will be given for funds allocation to the power sector.

[Translation]

Hydro Power Generation

156. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the hydro power generation potential in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for hydro power generation in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the schemes proposed to be launched for this purpose, State-wise; and

(e) details of participation of the Union/State Governments and private sector therein separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE